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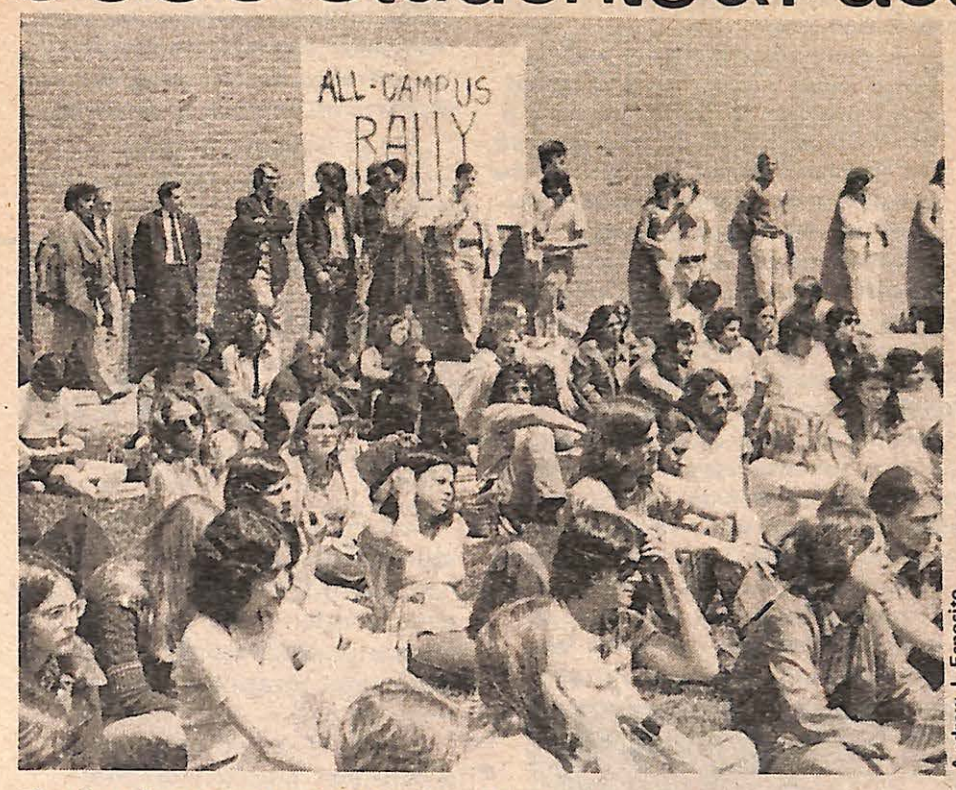
New Haven

Vol. VI, No. 22

May 15-31, 1975

SCSC Students & Faculty Protest Cuts



Andrew J. Esposito

Southern Connecticut students, faculty and staff gathered to hear speakers decry the decrease in state funding support for public higher education.

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by Andrew J. Esposito
Modern Times Staff

On Thursday, May 8, approximately 200 students and faculty members gathered at Southern Connecticut State College (SCSC) to protest state funding cutbacks in higher education. It was the first time in five years, since the Kent State tragedy, that as large a crowd had gathered in protest on the SCSC campus. This time they were not protesting the loss of life elsewhere, they were pleading for their their school's fiscal life.

The rally was triggered by action taken the previous week by Governor Grasso and the Board of Trustees for the State Colleges. In her budget proposal for next year, the Governor set aside cost of living increments and promotions for all state employees. In a further move to reduce costs, the Board of Trustees has devised a plan to reduce educational expenditures by an additional five per cent.

Quality of Education

The organizers of the rally, Advocates of Quality Education (AQE), stated: "if implemented, the contigency plan when coupled with Grasso's budget will further degrade the quality of public higher education in Connecticut." In addition to affecting the staff, the majority of *the proposed cuts directly relate to SCSC students' education and lives.*

For example, one of the first departments to suffer personnel reductions will be the campus health services. The staff will end up with only two nurses to care for a student population of 7,000. Additionally, students will be required to carry accident and sickness insurance and use local hospitals for health care. That these conditions should exist at a public residential college, say the rally's sponsors, is unthinkable.

Additional Cost Cutting

The students also pointed out the affects of a possible 15 per cent reduction in the expenditures for the library. The AQE asserts: "Colleges are collections of people and books. Take away the books and half the college is gone."

Yet the cruellest proposed cut of all will affect a critical part of the teaching of most SCSC students. They are the students who must have practice teaching to get their degree. The Board of Trustees wishes to eliminate the money used to pay master teachers who analyze the students' performance in the classroom. If the students have to pay this fee themselves, it will place a financial burden on them.

Cuts Affect Poor

The effect of these proposed cuts would be to substantially reduce the quality of public higher education. Since it is the children of working and poor people who, for the most part, attend the state colleges, those who can least afford it will suffer.

State colleges, such as Southern, have been a traditional route to better jobs for the non-wealthy of the state. As costs soar and quality declines, that path will no longer lead to the better life. To make things worse, while the state administration decreases aid to public higher education, it increases it to the private colleges in the state.

We are in the absurd position of seeing state support for SCSC cut as more tax dollars flow to wealthy colleges, such as Yale. It appears that in Connecticut a reverse Robin Hood mentality exists. We take tax dollars from the poor and give them to the rich, compliments of Governor Grasso.

Faculty Demoralized

In addition to having an adverse affect on students, budget cuts have deeply affected the SCSC faculty. *Violotel Lindbeok, speaking for the SCSC American Federation of Teachers chapter, said: "Cutting fat out of the budget is not cutting flesh out of our hides." She* went on to point out: "The faculty is expected to provide leadership. How can we do this when we are forced to work so close to the poverty line?"

Lindbeok pointed out that the same budget which eliminated cost of living increases for state employees, contained a $10,000 a year raise for members of the Public Utilities Commission. "Thus," she states, "the cost cutting falls unfairly upon working and poor people."

Both AQE and SCSC staff members will take their case to the State Capitol. They are asking the citizens of Connecticut to support them in their efforts to retain high quality public education. Residents of the state are asked to write or call their State Representatives and Senators, demanding restoration of the cuts in the state college budget.

Budget Nixs City Needs

by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

Over 150 people showed up at the Board of Alderman's annual public hearing on the budget. It was a large turnout considering that all that the Board of Aldermen could do was hold a hearing and all that the public could do was to turn out.

Under the New Haven Charter, all that the Aldermen could do is to decrease or reject the budget. As a committee "of the whole," the Board of Aldermen convened the hearing on Thursday May 8 at about 7:45 pm in the Hall of Records. Except for a few prearranged agents of City Hall, most of the people in attendance were there to protest the Board of Finance's allocations for a budget for next year.

Mostly Opposition

The cuts of 10% in the proposed education budget and 19% in the proposed public library budget were particularly outrageous to those attending the hearing. The Board of Aldermen allowed 45 minutes for speakers in favor of the budget and then another 45 minutes for opponents. Supporters of the proposed budget for next year could not fill up the 45 minutes they were given.

Stephen Papa, president of the New Haven Board of Education, spoke in favor of the budget. Members of the Board of Aldermen asked him how the New Haven school system would absorb the cut revenues. He answered that he did not yet have enough time to "digest" the propseod cuts only completed by the the Superintendent of Schools that day. A representative of the Superintendent's office, Kenneth Redmond, who had spoken ten minutes earlier, was no where to be found to answer the questions on where the cuts would effect education.

The business agent of the Iron Workers and the business agent of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) praised the budget because taxes were held fixed.

The budget proposed by the Board of Finance calls for an increase of city expenditures next year of $3.4 million (76.8 million to 80.2 million) while holding the city tax rate fixed at 82.2 mills. Hardest hit in the Finance Board's allocations were education and public libraries.

Libraries a Priority

There was a good deal of anger and outrage over the cuts in the proposed library budget. The library personnel are currently understaffed and underpaid. The library budget is only about 1% of city expenditures, yet the monies requested were cut by almost 20%.

The Head of the Library Directors, the Director of Library Services, the Head of the Library Employees Association, Friends of the Library, and many other concerned citizens attended the hearings to try to save one of New Haven's most important public services.

The New Haven Public Library (with a Main Branch downtown and seven neighborhood branches) serves the public schools, the elderly, the infirm, and, especially in a time of high unemployment, the unemployed!

Schools Also Hurt

Although Board of Education President, Stephen Papa had not yet digested the cuts, many subsequent speakers knew well the potential consequences for New Haven's schools.

see BUDGET page 8

A. Redfield

"...and in times like these we must all make sacrifices---like the elderly, the poor and their children..."

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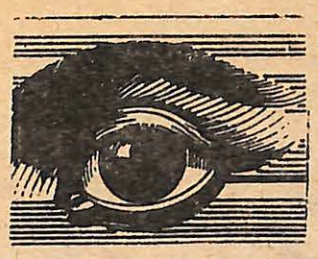


eye on the board

Mayoral Hopefuls Ought to Find Issues

by Andrew J. Esposito
Modern Times Staff

Two battles erupted over two different objectives, at the May 5 meeting of the Board of Aldermen. The first struggle was over the seating of Jack R. Friedler who was appointed by Mayor Guida to replace Munsy Horwitz as the Ward 30 alderwoman. The second fight was over the status of Louis' Lunch.

The action began seconds after Board President Vincent Mauro (D-3) called the meeting to order. Alderwoman Rosalind Berman (R-29) jumped to her feet claiming the meeting was illegal. She based her assertion on the fact that no vacancy existed because Horwitz had withdrawn her resignation on April 17.

Mauro ruled Berman's claim out of order. The Ward 29 Alderwoman then asked her colleagues to overturn the ruling. The full board, by a vote of 13 to 9, upheld Mauro's decision and Friedler was seated.

Republican Response

After the approximately 45 minute debate over the seating of Friedler, the board's two Republican members, Berman and George Longyear, Ward 16, blocked action on a long list of measures. In using this tactic, the Republicans hoped to bring the board's deliberations to a standstill. They appeared to be unsuccessful, as the board's Democratic majority took the strategy in stride.

However, it was obvious from the manner in which Mauro handled the debate that a great deal of political pressure has been applied to insure Friedler was seated. Board President Mauro usually guides the meetings with a light touch. Such was not the case this time around. Clearly he wanted the seating controversy disposed of as quickly as possible.

Mauro was successful: the only defections from Democratic ranks were members of its "reform wing." Yet, it appears the matter will not be forgotten. For the Republicans indicated that they will seek legal action in an attempt to reclaim the Ward 30 seat.

In reality the controversy is a "tempest in a tea pot." Come November, according to knowledgeable political sources, a Republican will be elected as the Ward 30 representative. So, many people are asking: why all the fuss?

A Campaign Issue

The answer to the question is clear. By keeping the issue alive, the Republicans can emphasize the high handed manner in which Guida runs New Haven. For although under the present city charter, the Mayor's actions are legal, they plainly violate the spirit of fair play. Therefore, the Republicans hope to give their mayoralty candidate, John Esposito (no relation), an issue to shout about.

However, as a city wide campaign issue the brouhaha over the seating of Friedler must be placed into a broader context. It is really an example of the arrogance of power. And examples of Guida's arrogant use of power abound. For instance, the controversy over the summer job program, the politicalizing of the anti-poverty program, and his non-responsiveness to citizen's appeals.

But there is no guarantee the Republicans will be any better. All we can be certain of is that they will favor different people. Based on what most New Haveners say, the Republicans aren't seen as being much different from the Democrats. Thus, the arrogance of power issue doesn't appear to be a very effective one for the Republicans.

A Second Issue

A second battle broke out over the fate of Louis' Lunch. This time instead of a Republican vs. Democratic fight, it was the board's "liberals" who split with the "regulars." They urged that "for the sake of history the lunchroom be allowed to remain on its present site."

Proponents of the medical center argued that it would produce $300,000 in tax revenue for the city. Thus, they reasoned that although they had nothing against Louis', it had to go.

Frank Logue (D-18), who has been using Louis' Lunch as an issue in his primary campaign against Guida, offered a compromise resolution. He proposed that the medical center developers be required to sell 900 square feet on Temple or George Streets to Louis' Lunch. The board rejected the resolution and it appears that Louis' Lunch will fade from the downtown New Haven scene.

Nick Heyer

Jack Friedler, new member of the Board of Aldermen, looks calm as controvercy swirls around his appointment to the Board by Mayor Guida.

Like the controversy over Friedler's appointment, it's doubtful the plight of Louis' Lunch is a viable campaign issue. In fact, both Logue and Esposito will stand a better chance against Guida if they concentrate on issues of concern to the majority of New Haveners. They should stay away from narrow "causes" which are of interest to only a small segment of the city's residents.

Only by finding issues which excite large numbers of people can they hope to unseat Guida.

Alcohol Council Organizes Fight

by Steve Kass

According to Edie Jaquiery, Resource Center Director of the Alcoholic Council of Greater New Haven, there is little coordination and communication between area social services to encourage the exchange of resources.

"The role of the Alcoholic Council is to fulfill those gaps not provided and act as a liaison of various agencies to share common goals, problems, and ideas."

Located at 103 Whitney Avenue, the Council provides services for thirteen area towns and is funded by private, state, and federal grants as well as contributions from concerned citizens.

Specifically, the program acts as an advocate for the alcoholic and his or her family with planning and treatment agencies. This is to provide leadership for the development of proper services for these groups.

Referral and Follow-Up

Treating alcoholism as a disease and emphasizing the need for the human interaction often missing in the person who abuses alcohol or drugs, the Council has developed a referral service with follow-up, so people with drinking problems can receive information and help in seeking proper services. Referrals are made to places such as Connecticut Mental Health, the Outpatient Clinic on Orange St., Dixwell Opposes Alcoholism, New Haven Alcoholic Clinic, and Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Council is also administering and presenting a special program of alcohol education and prevention at the Chesire Correctional Institution in connection with the LEAA (Legal Defense) program, a Multi-Site Counselor Diversion program for the alcohol offender. It is a central concept of this program, Project BAR (Better Alcoholic Rehabilitation), that chronic alcoholism can be minimized by early identification of the alcoholic offender.

Seminar

The Council has presented a seminar to all inmates in attendance at the school and is conducting ongoing educational-counciling sessions with inmates involved with a therapeutic community within the institution.

In addition to Project BAR, the Council offers a variety of other services and programs to people seeking help. These include: community and industry education, training programs, literature and film library, speakers bureau, outreach work for the elderly, school visitations, and a monthly newspaper.

Currently, the Council just finished Alcohol Education Week, May 4-11, a community effort to raise consciousness. For further information or if you are interested in becoming active in the fight against alcoholism, contact the Council at 787-1253.

Hill Health Center MUST Stay Open

from the Hill Guardian

Like everything else, the Hill Health Center has been hard hit this year by inflation, a bad econo- and government cutbacks. The outlook for next year is even worse, as emphasized below by Dr. Zachary Finkelberg, medical director of a New York City health center, in a letter he sent to neighborhood health centers around the nation.

"If President Ford has his way, a serious crime is soon to be perpetrated upon a large segment of the American people—the poor, especially the working poor, in particular. I refer to Mr. Ford's proposed cutbacks in Federal funding of health programs for fiscal 1976 and beyond. The working poor, whose income level disqualifies them from public assistance but is to low to enable them to afford private medical care(they are usually categorized as 'medically indigent'), would bear the brunt of these reductions.

" Congressional approval of these unconscionable cutbacks can only accelerate the outrageous decline in human services initiated by cuts during the latter Nixon years."

Budget to Axe Funds

"The Office of Management and Budget is about to present to Congress a budget that is more than $175 million short of current funding levels for many health center care areas including $50 million in Neighborhood Health Center funding(**representing a closure of 68 of the 177 Centers in the country and affecting 500,000 patients).**

Furthermore, the proposal contains cuts of $60 million in Maternal and Child Health funding, $21 million in Family Planning funding, $39 million in Community Mental Health funding, $5 million in Migrant Health funding plus millions more in programs such as Rodent Control and Lead Poisoning Control.

"It is informative to note that these are relatively paltry sums when one views the total scope of governmental funding patterns, for example, the $1.5 **billion** for over 200 super bombers at $75 million apiece! We are speaking merely about survival-level funding for services which, if removed, will leave people with virtually no options for where to turn for these services in the face of voluntary hospital curtailments and municipal hospital overutilization. We are talking about life and death."

Poor Only Ones to Suffer

"What does this mean? The message seems abundantly clear that in these economically difficult times this administration has declared the poor, working poor and all medically indigent to be inflationary and therefore not deserving of vital services.

"This must not be allowed to happen. Concerned readers must deluge their representatives in the Senate and the House with letters in support of the Health Revenue Sharing and Health Services Bill in order that we can survive until such time that we have and administration that is aware and responsive to human and social needs."

The Hill Health Center would be seriously hurt by these cuts. **It is important for you to write your congressman now and urge them to support SB.66.** They are US Representative Robert N. Gaimo, 22-65 Rayburn House Office Building, Wash. D.C., 20515; Senator Abraham A. Ribicoff, 321 Russell Senate Office Building, Wash. D.C., 20510; and Senator Lowell P. Weiker, Wash. D.C. 20510.

Plant Shutdowns Reflect Push for Profits

by Modern Times Staff

Editor's Note: This is the third article in a series which examines plant shutdowns and the dilemma that they pose for workers.

"The Company's been in town for one hundred years," exclaimed one embittered worker, "how can they just close up on us?" Comments like this flowed from the mouth of worker after worker when a large factory in Connecticut recently announced it was going to shut down. "How can they treat us like this? Why don't they think of us, the workers, before they shut it down?"

Questions like this occur day in and day out when companies decide to cease production. The answer to the often-posed "Why do plants close" is both simple and complex. Here are some examples of the wide variety of reasons one can find for plants shutting down in the Greater New Haven area.

Varied Reasons

In 1974, Uniroyal announced that its synthetic rubber facility in Naugatuck would close its doors after being one of the first of its kind in World War II. The reason? The location in Connecticut was too far away from the source of raw materials, mostly found in Texas and Louisiana. "High labor costs" were also a management complaint along with statements that the plant itself was obsolete.

Olin Corporation argues that it needs a more modern factory, a better business environment (meaning lower taxes), and a "nicer" neighborhood in which to locate. Uniroyal's tennis shoe factory in Naugatuck continues to threaten to close blaming cheap foreign imports as the principle culprit. The Midtown Motor Inn, once a fashionable New Haven hotel, withered and died due to bad management by a New England family corporation in the hotel business.

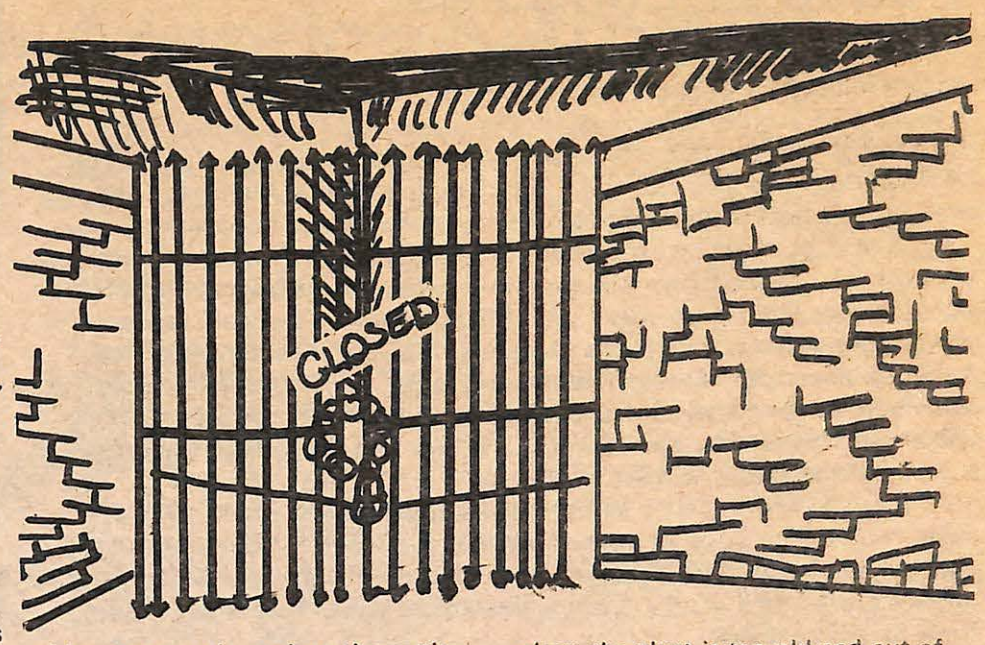
True Reasons Hidden

These and other reasons could be cited from one industry to the next: imports, bad management, "excessive" labor demands, obsolete facilities, threats from environmentalists over factory waste disposal, and so on. These reasons seem simple enough, but sometimes they merely hide deeper and more sinister causes.

Time and again managers and owners use the threat of a shutdown as a tactic to get workers to settle for weaker contracts, lower wages (sometimes even wage roll-backs), and reduced control over their places of work. The crunch can and does come when labor calls the owners' bluff, and the owners, not wanting to have their credibility doubted, actually proceed with a shutdown.

Power Economics

This happens most often in the case



of large corporations where the particular factory in question is but a small part of the total assets. It is a clever tactic, and most large firms can afford to take the risk.

The workers, however, can rarely afford to take the risk, and that's why they so often are afraid to push management very far when the issue of a shutdown is raised. This "game" that companies play helps us in the labor movement to understand the basic simple principle which underlies this and the earlier mentioned reasons for plant shutdowns in the New Haven area and everywhere else.

Profit First

However arrived at, the decision to close a plant is always the result of economic thinking which attaches the greatest importance to maintaining and increasing profits. Sometimes, as we have seen, the basis of the decision is clear: the plant is too old and out of date.

Sometimes, the computer has to tell its owners that such and such a plant is unprofitable: international trade agreements, cost analysis, high-level finance, fluctuations in world markets all added up to close-down a plant in Waterbury, for instance, thousands of miles away from corporate headquarters.

But, always the cause is the never-ceasing desire to make money. For this reason workers, even at the height of anguish and uncertainty, understand why their plant--a community mainstay like Olin--may so cold-heartedly close shop. Beneath it all, it is calculated economics which calls the shots.

In other articles we shall report on what attempts have been made to stem the tide of shutdown, and what future possibilities there might be to prevent what for many is a tragic event.

Talks Stalemated with Amity

The Union representing the Amity Regional Board of Education school cafeteria workers announced today that it has reached a "complete stalemate" with the Board in its effort to negotiate a first contract for the cafeteria workers.

Local 217, Hotel & Restaurant Employees Union, AFL-CIO, said following a meeting with the entire cafeteria group that it has requested the intervention of a state fact-finder in the contract dispute.

John W. Wilhelm, Local 217 Secretary-Treasurer, said that a negotiating session Monday afternoon with the participation of State Mediator Frank Patella "totally failed to produce a contract, or even to come close. Only a few minor items were agreed to."

Workers Bitter

Wilhelm said that the cafeteria workers are "very bitter because the Board of Education has refused to give them the 15 cents per hour wage increase which was promised them last September."

He said this wage increase had been promised the employees since 1973, and that "retroactive payment of this promised increase would help restore the cafeteria women's faith in the Board, which is now at an all-time low."

The cafeteria group plans "a variety of efforts to bring their plight to the attention of the people in the three towns," Wilhelm said. "Most people are now unaware that the cafeteria women are treated as second-class citizens compared to other Board employees."

The long list of unresolved issues which will be submitted to the fact-finder appointed by the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration includes: wages, sick leave, holiday pay, insurance, vacations, storm doors, uniform allowance, severance pay, Union security, whether the under-20-hours-per-week employees will be covered by the contract, promotions and transfers, seniority and layoffs, hours of work, leaves of absence, binding arbitration of grievances, overtime, temporary upgrading, the duration of the contract, and many other areas of contract lauguage.

Wilhelm said that "I cannot remember any other time when a cafeteria negotiation has reached the fact-finding stage with so many unsettled issues."

Staff Photo

Public employees show their anger with the legislators in Hartford. Their promotions and raises have been cut from the state budget.

Labor Betrayed

by Modern Times Staff

People who work for a living are taking it on the chin this year from State Democrats. Last November, the Connecticut State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, poured over $200,000 and countless hours of work into electing Ella Grasso and Democrats throughout the state.

In return, the Democratic Party Platform was written to include a number of positions favorable to working men and women.

In the few intervening months since November's election, the Democrats have done a complete about face and have made a political decision to ignore this constituency. One United Auto Workers'(UAW)staff member estimates that in this session already over 62% of union backed legislation has been defeated in the Democratically controlled legislature.

The Fight is On

Many unions that had hoped for favorable legislation and have already seen that go down the drain are now fighting desparately against regressive bills that are coming off the floor of the House and the Senate.

For public employees the picture is grimmer still. There is legislation to institute binding arbitration for municipal employees who do not have the right to strike (House Bill 6969). Now municipalities can negotiate for nickels and dimes for several years, and the unions are powerless.

Binding arbitration could provide an end point to negotiations, which would at least give the unions a chance for favorable settlements. This bill is extremely important and currently in danger of not passing.

Collective bargaining for state employees(House Bill 5179)has long been sought and has received a joint favorable report from the Appropiations Committee . Passage is not yet assured. To soften the blow to monied interests in the state, the Democrats have coupled this bill with a State Budget which provides no raises, cost-of-living increases or increments for next year.

Strong Reactions

The Conn. State Labor Council, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees(AFSCME), and the Conn. State Employees Association (CSEA) and other unaffiliated unions throughout the state have reacted with shock and outrage. There is deep feeling of betrayal that observers say has been unequalled in this state for many ye

A hastily put together lobbying effort by unions throughout the state is being mounted at the Capitol . The State Labor Council has put out a call to all its affiliated unions to donate one staff member to lobby everyday the legislature is in session. This effort began this past week, and will continue to the end of the current session.

State Employees staged a rally, 3,000 strong, at the Bushnell Auditorium, Wednesday, May 8, to protest the proposed lack of pay raises. The rally was followed by an intense lobbying effort at the Capitol next day.

Other Alternatives

Many union leaders and their members have been discussing other alternatives, ranging from a third party to massi demonstrations and strikes by publ employees. If the Democrats do not act soon on some key legislation, it is likely that further action will be taken.

This is colored by grumblings of dissatisfactions among rank and file unionists that the leadership of the State Labor Council is too intertwi with the Democratic Party to undertake the hard push that is needed now. The President of the Council is John Driscoll and he is up for reelection in September of this year.

editorial

Peace at Long Last

"I am sure that if the great American people knew the true facts and backround of the development in South Vietnam, they would agree with me that further bloodshed is unnecessary..." The year was 1965, the speaker was Secretary-General of the United Nations, U-Thant. The United States was then at "war" with North Vietnam. The reason, so they told us, was to protect Vietnam from the evils of Communism.

At that time, most of us felt that this conflict **was** for us absolutely unnecessary. In 1970, we the American Independent Movement(AIM) stated our feelings in an editorial in **Modern Times:** "the main factor governing foreign policy is not a desire to advance the interests of the majority of people, working people, but is the desire to guarantee big profits for large corporations. Corporations make big profits controlling the natural resources, labor supply , markets and investment opportunities of foreign countries(like Vietnam)."

AIM was founded partly as an anti-war organization and in 1966 decided to run Bob Cook as an independent candidate for Congress on an anti-war platform. AIM proposed then that we should stop all bombing, declare a cease-fire and commence immediate withdrawal of all troops from South East Asia.

The American people were being lied to by the Johnson Administration which promised de-escalation of the war. As Cook stated at the Powder Ridge Rally for Peace in 1966," we have been led to commit atrocities unheard of in our history. We have napalmed villages and and destroyed good acres of crop land. We were told we would not go North, that we would not bomb Hanoi, yet we have done all that!"

In 1966, Aim sponsored a concert with Tom Paxton and Judy Collins to try and spread the word about the war. We also allied with other peace groups in that year to try and mobilize New Haven against the war and we sent 12 buses to New York City for a peace rally.

In 1968, as the war raged on, AIM again ran Cook for Congress. US foreign policy was a disaster and failing drastically: the war could not stop the revolution of Socialism. AIM advocated withdrawal of American troops, but too few people listened.

In 1969, we created the Fall Offensive Committee against the war and organized marchers to Washington. We also gave lectures on various campuses in our area to spread the word about the war and its stupidity. In 1970, we supported the People's Peace Treaty which demanded the immediate end to the war in Vietnam. Although more and more people joined with us, our collective voices were not heard.

The cease-fire came in 1972 and we breathed a sigh of relief, briefly. But it was not until 1975, that the "war" finally ended for this country. After ten years, 56,000 Americans dead, 303,000 wounded ,over 1 million Vietnamese dead, $150 billion spent and 7 million tons of bombs dropped, we finally got out of Vietnam. All for nothing.

The cost had also been exorbitant at home. The Tet Offensive, My Lai and the destruction by B-52's brought the truth of the war home to campuses, town meeting places and every home. Peaceful demonstrations were held to voice the opinion of the majority of Americans. More lives lost at home and no one in power reacted. The little trust we had in the government was then crushed as we no longer supported an agressive foreign policy bent on destruction. We could no longer accept the lies of Vietnamization, de-escaltion and finally, peace with honor!

In the end, Vietnam belongs to the Vietnamese as it should have thirty years ago.

We could say "we told you so" but that comment has an inappropiately victorious tone. A real victory would be a government that serves our interests, a foriegn policy that serves the majority of people—working people—and not the profit interests of a few American corporations.

A victory for the American people that parallels the victory of the Vietnamese would allow us to put an end to the indecent barbarous tactic of destroting other countries to increase the wealth of a few.

It's up to us, let our voices be heard louder than ever before. It's our turn to win!

Volume V Number 2
Circulation 4000

MODERN TIMES

Editorial 441 Chapel Street
Office 562-2510

MODERN TIMES welcomes all comments and letters to the editors.

MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on **MODERN TIMES** is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions from the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get this kind of news from profit-making commercial papers. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working men and women are told by them instead of their bosses. There is no place else where the problems of employment and education, and housing and health care are told by the people who have to live with them.

This is the richest country in the world. Yet most of the wealth is used only by a few. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. There would be no need to strike for paltry raises, waste our resources and labor on missiles and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need, not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the vested interests that run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care, and decent jobs.

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EVERYTHING FREE IN AMERICA
"SEND ME YOUR TIRED AND HUDDLED MASSES, YOUR GENERALS, YOUR WEALTHY AND PRIVILEGED CLASSES, YOUR CROOKS AND PIMPS AND BAR GIRLS YEARNING TO BREATH FREE..."

money talks

New Haven Labor Party Would Make Sense

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

England, like many other western capitalist countries, has a Labor Party. The Labor Party claims to represent the interests of working people, small businessmen, professionals, minority groups, etc.--all those who usually get left out of the big decisions, the big power, and the big business of the country.

But would a Labor Party make sense in the United States? We can find an answer to that question by answering a slightly different question: Would a Labor Party make sense in New Haven, now, in 1975?

Major Parties Serve Management

Both the Republicans and the Democrats will soon nominate for mayor individuals who are managers or what workers often call "management types." Guida owns a travel agency. Esposito is on management's "team" at the New Haven Board of Education.

Both men make decisions about hiring and firing working people. Guida's business and Esposito's managerial job bring each man a salary far higher than that of the vast majority of New Haven residents. Each man earns his salary according to how well he "works" the employees he controls.

Those of us not on "management's team," we who earn less, we who worry about keeping our jobs rather than laying off others--we have no candidate of our own. No candidate represents our interests because none shares our kind of life. A Labor Party in New Haven that drew its leadership from working people might offer us a candidate of our own.

Program is Most Important

Of course, what matters most is the program of action that a candidate and the candidate's party commit themselves to. No matter what kinds of jobs a party's leaders come from, it is their policies and their philosophies that will win or lose our support. If Guida were a carpenter, instead of a businessman, he would still be judged by his policies and his party's policies.

Unfortunately, only too many working people vote for candidates and parties that have no commitment to working people's needs and interests. A Labor Party in New Haven with a clear program for the majority of the people (and candidates to match) might help many people to re-examine just why they vote Democratic or Republican and whether they really ought to keep doing so.

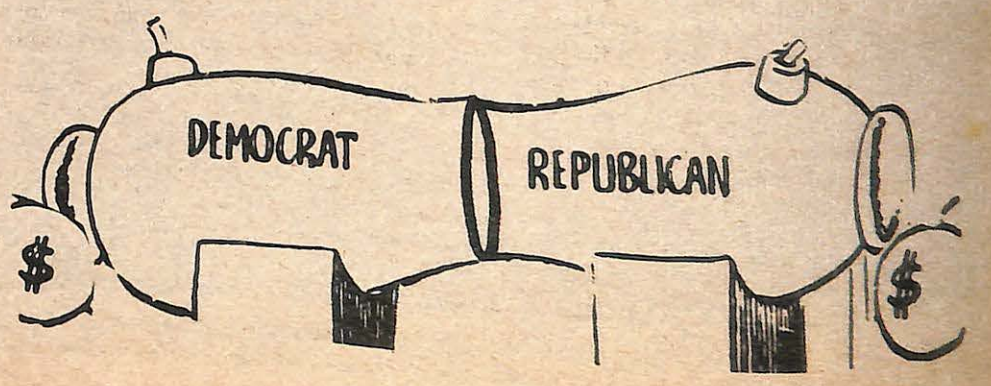
Workers Are Divided

If you think about it, one major reason why both Democratic and Republican parties and candidates can keep on monopolizing elections for themselves is that working people, employed or unemployed, and their families are badly divided. Both parties constantly play on the differences among working people which serves to keep them separated.

Democrats and Republicans constantly organize their activities, their wards, their publicity, their tickets around ethnic divisions. We all think naturally about Italian or Irish or Black or Puerto Rican or Jewish or Polish "voting groups." We think that way partly because the Democrats and Republicans organize their parties that way.

Yet when working people vote according to their national origins or color or religion, they are not voting according to their basic needs as working people. Just look: who usually runs or controls the groups of Italians, Irish, etc.? Is it working people, or is it the owners, managers, businessmen again?

A Labor Party in New Haven might be be a very helpful way of bringing together different types of working people around those basic needs that unite us. So, if a Labor makes sense for New Haven, doesn't it make good sense for the United States? And if not now, when when?



brass tacks

As the Sun Sets on the American Empire

by Mike F. Holodnak
Modern Times Staff

The Vietnam war has taught us one thing: given half a chance the majority of the American people are humane and compassionate. Unfortunately, all the power in this country is in the hands of corrupt and inept hacks who equate large volumes of money with signs of superiority.

The U.S. foreign policy is designed to benefit big business. It is financed by us taxpayers without our consent, and it is implemented by lying politicians in complete secrecy.

Since no administrators in Washington could possibly justify a "declared war" in Indochina, they simply maintained an "undeclared war."

The record is clear. In 1945 Ho Chi Minh, demanding an end to French occupation, issued a Declaration of Independence. When the French refused to leave, the French Indochina war began.

U.S. Involvement Begins

In 1950, the U.S. began massive economic and military aid to the French forces, eventually paying 80 percent of that war. In July1954, after the French garrison at Dien Bien Phu was wiped out, the war with the French was ended. But in September 1954, the U.S. put Ngo Dinh Diem into power in Saigon, and by 1961, the U.S. had 18,000 "advisors" in Vietnam. August 4, 1964, the phoney Tonkin resolution authorized President Johnson "to take all necessary measures." The result was the commitment of U.S. combat troops.

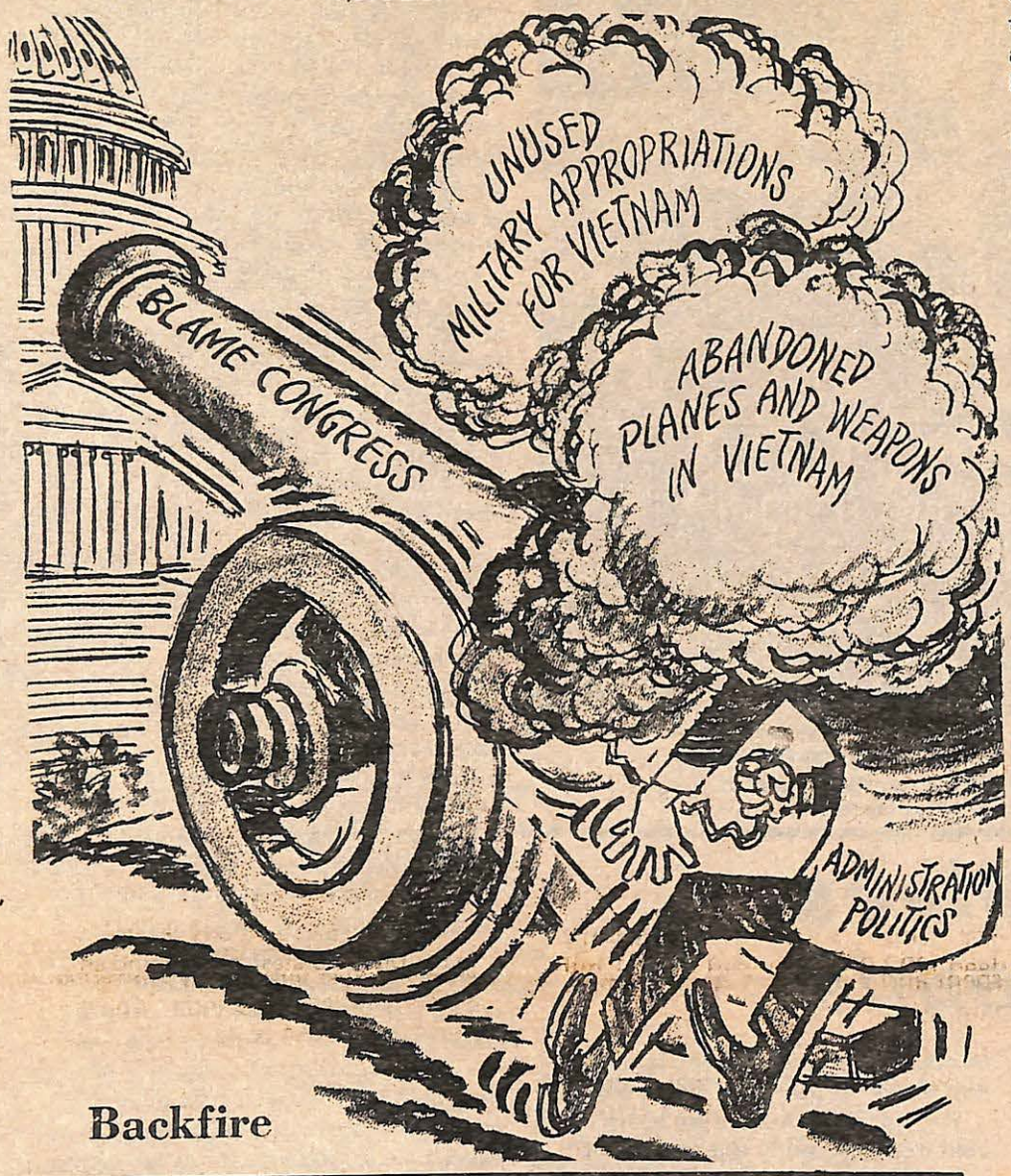
What followed was B-52 saturation bombings of suspected Viet Cong areas, chemical destruction of millions of acres of lush vegetation as well as food supplies, napalming of villages, massacring of helpless women and children, and measuring "progress" by counting dead bodies; all of which was consistent with a U.S. military that viewed the people it was exterminating as "gooks," "dinks" and "slopes."

Horrifying Statistics

In the process, 50,000 Americans were killed in combat, another 10,298 died from other causes, and 340,000 were wounded. Also 183,528 South Vietnamese and 925,000 North Vietnamese were killed in combat, and there were well over a million civilian casualties, at a cost of $150 billion to U.S. taxpayers.

Yet, just before Saigon fell, the Ford Administration was still asking for a $722 million increase in military aid to save our "allies," Presidents Thieu and Lon Nol. This request came while retreating South Vietnamese troops were abandoning or destroying about $5 billion in weapons, ammunition and other fighting equipment.

On top of that, **Time Magazine** reported that South Vietnamese officials tried to persuade a Swiss Charter airline to fly $73 million in gold bullion from Saigon to Switzerland. The bullion was listed as "some personal belongings" of Presidents Thieu and Lon Nol.



Backfire

U.S. Corporations Benefit

Thieu and Lon Nol were well rewarded for what they had done for big business. With the 1961 economic agreements providing for the protection of U.S. business in South Vietnam, Exxon, Caltex, Standard, Mobil, and Shell Oil Companies investing millions of dollars in drilling operations in South Vietnam, and both Chase Manhattan and the Bank of America were able to open branches there to finance other large investors like Singer Company, International Business Machine Corporation, Formost-McKesson Inc., and many others who were coming there in droves to make a killing.

President Thieu may not have been kind to his own people, whom he had murdered or placed into Tiger Cages by the thousands, but he sure knew how to be friendly to big American bankers and corporation presidents, as well as to rich local gangsters and drug traffickers who wielded power.

Now, at long last, the corporations will really see their "dominoes" falling. With Cambodia falling to the Cambodian people and Vietnam falling to the Vietnamese people, the people of Laos, Thailand, Burma and South Korea that still have thousands of U.S. troops there, will all eventually demand to be free from foreign domination.

Refugees Fear Air Force Bombers

As for the refugees, even the **New York Times** reported that most of the fleeing was being done by panicky Saigon troops and by those civilians that fear, not the North, but rather the South Vietnamese Air Force bombers which in the past had bombed cities that had fallen to the North. They know that the North Vietnamese have no air force. Some still remember the American general who had stated, "We found it necessary to destroy the city of Hue in order to save it."

Therefore it was not surprising to see helpless orphans, many of whom still bear scars from napalm made by Dow and Dupont, used in a last ditch publicity stunt.

U.S. Exploits Airlifts

U.S. Ambassador Graham Martin told a Saigon deputy premier that the arrival of the children in the U.S. would "help create a shift in American public opinion in favor" of Saigon. He further added, "When these children land in the U.S., they will be subject to television, radio and press agency coverage and the effect will be tremendous."

Policies concocted by heartless hacks like Martin, are usually devastating, as was the killing of over 200 children in the crash of an unsafe military cargo plane. Many of the children who were flown here in other aircraft became seriously ill or died of malnutrition and dehydration due to moronic neglect by the "rescuers" who were whisking the children away from the North Vietnamese who, like the Chinese, have day care centers that are the envy of much of the world.

The sooner the greedy U.S. corporations get out of these countries and let the people themselves decide how they should live, the sooner we will all achieve a more peaceful and humane world.

The Challenge of Indoor Plants

The hardest thing about growing plants inside is convincing yourself that you won't automatically kill anything green that you bring into your house. Whenever someone comes to me and says "I kill anything that's green just by walking by it", I feel it's a challenge to prove they are wrong.

They are being unfair to themselves. They are also missing out on a lot of joy, headaches, and work that go with an indoor garden. A few simple rules will help when beginning a collection of indoor plants.

Too Much Kindness

The most important thing is don't kill your plant with kindness. Although plants do need attention, many don't need to be watered every day and hovered over constantly, which is what many new plant owners do. It reminds me of a friend whose first plant was an African violet from a supermarket.

That same day she purchased enough plant food to feed an entire greenhouse for a month, an expensive brass flower pot into which whe incorrectly potted her new plant, and a watering can. She systematically proceeded to water the plant for a week before it died of drowning, overfeeding, and shock from being transplanted without a period in the dark to help it adjust.

Go to a Plant Shop

Her mistakes were typical. I think her first mistake was in the grocery store. When buying your first plant, I would recomment going to a place that handles only plants. The reasons for this are not the snobbery but the practicality: they know what they are selling and they will often guarantee a plant for a certain amount of time. If worse comes to worse, they can help you to restore the health of a sick plant.

Another reason for my friend's almost guaranteed failure was her choice of plants. For a novice to start with an African violet is like learning to drive on a precision timed racing car. The African violet is just too fussy a plant to begin with. It's best to start with a plant that is easier to handle, like a philodendron or coleus. They are hard to kill and will take more kindly to too much love or neglect.

Strong and Colorful

The coleus is an especially fun plant to start with because it comes in a variety of colored and shaped leaves and takes well to creative pruning. For people who are hesitant about doing radical cutting back with other plants because they don't know how the plant will react, the coleus is a great plant on which to experiment. It grows no matter what you do to it.

Both the philodendron and the coleus will learn to live in just about any kind of growing conditions although the coleus will like much more sun.

Put it in the brightest window of your house, and if there is any red in the leaves, the sun will bring it out. The philodendron doesn't like so much sun and can even take a good amount of shade, but seems to do best in a consistently light (but not full sun) window.

Create a Schedule

Both plants can withstand overwatering as long as the roots don't rot--so make sure you have a pot with holes in the bottom and a dish under it to catch the drainage. Both plants will tell you when they need water--the leaves will wilt. I wouldn't recommend waiting until that happens, so schedule watering to just before the leaves wilt when the soil is dry to the touch.

If there was a choice between the lesser of two evils, over-attention or neglect, I would recommend leaving the plant alone but watching it. You will come to know the signs of need for attention: wilted leaves mean water, brown spots on the leaves show over-watering or lack of nutrients in the soil, yellow leaves often mean not enough sun.

There are a number of good indoor plant books on the market. The ones I like the best and refer to most often, are **The Pocket Encyclopedia of Indoor Plants,** by A. Nicolaisen; **The Time-Life Encyclopedia of Gardening** which comes in two volumes (Foliage and Flowering House plants); and **The New York Times Book of House Plants.**

There are so many more that you may find a good one th I haven't recommended. I think the portant thing is to have a good reference book at your disposal. It should tell you the exact care of each of your plants, because each one is different.

Segregation Begins in Realtor's Office

by Nicholas Heyer
Modern Times Staff

"Real estate brokers have a responsibility to the citizens of Greater New Haven to help make fair housing a reality in all sections of the metropolitan area. In order to determine the extent to which brokers can be held accountable for de facto segregation, a group of concerned citizens organized to test the attitudes of agents of a representative real estate company."

Thus reads the introduction to an investigation into the practices of the Beazley Company, New Haven's largest real estate firm. Education/Instruccion, a Hartford based housing group, has helped organize local volunteers to make inquiries at each of the six Beazley offices in the area. Going in pairs and posing as prospective buyers ignorant of the New Haven area, these testers gathered information given to them by the realtors and compared it to published statistical facts on the area.

Nick Heyer

Education/Instruccion and CARP held a joint press conference to announce their plans to sue the Beazley Company. Above are Clarence Brown, the director of CARP; Fleming Norcutt, a CARP lawyer; Boyd Hinds, of Education/Instruccion; and Frank O'Hara, a volunteer tester.

Steering Shown

The results of this survey showed that realtors withheld information on housing, misinformed the testers about costs, services and trends, and made derogatory statements about areas on the basis of race and income. Rumor, lies and misinformation were given as fact. Much of this practice was directed against New Haven's inner city. Besides downgrading the city's value, realtors often professed ignorance of the city or refused to discuss or show houses within the city.

The results of this practice was to steer or direct middle income white buyers to the suburbs (especially Hamden, North Haven, Branford and North Branford) and direct black buyers to transitional neighborhoods within the city. Poor white buyers were also victims of steering toward the city or East Haven and West Haven.

Unsolicited and Inaccurate

Steering is illegal. It involves giving or filtering information on a racial or economic basis without being specifically asked to do so. It also involves giving misleading, inaccurate, or prejudicial information under any circumstances. Factual answers to questions are encouraged, but rumor and impression are not fact.

The Beazley Company realtors involved had recently been warned against steering by the Department of Housing and Urban Developement(HUD). HUD suggested that the Beazley Company prepare a pamphlet of accurate information and statistics for use by their realtors. It was also noted that Beazley had only white realtors and recruitment of minorities was suggested. Testing showed that Beazley agents ignored this advice. While several realtors made reference to the warnings, according to the testers only two of the twenty realtors involved did not pracitce steering.

Statistical Information

Statistical data gathered by Education/Instruccion does not support the practice of the realtors. While the trend from 1960 to 1970 shows a transfer of population and income to the suburbs, there is still a fairly even distribution of home values throughout New Haven. Taking a $15,000 income as compatable with financing a $30,000 house and using these as a standard, the following 1970 data was compiled.

Over 18% of New Haven's families earn more than $15,000 and could easily afford suburban homes. At the same time 2/3 of all suburban families earn less than $15,000. Therefore the steering practiced by realtors like Beazley is not based on economic reality. Strong racial segregation is apparent in urban-suburban housing patterns. 86% of the area's non white population lives within New Haven. But the report shows that 9% of New Haven's black families earn over $15,000 and could easily afford to live in the suburbs.

Effects of Steering

The general effects of steering are de facto racial segregation, segregation by income, increased rural tax bases at the expense of the urban tax base, and the creation of homogeneous white suburbs. The immediate effect on New Haven property owners is increased costs due to low income-high need residents and decreasing property values. Both lead to higher taxes.

The effect on a New Haven homeowner who wishes to sell his or her house is considerable. Not only are values forced down, but the house may never be shown to buyers who can afford to pay a decent price for it. The realtor will not be fairly representing a city house and therefore not fulfilling their responsibilities.

The buyer is also effected. Not being given full or accurate information on all available housing, the buyer is apt to miss good values. Education/Instruccion along with the Center for Advocacy Research and Planning (CARP) is filing suit against the Beazley Company seeking both punitive damages and an injunction against continuning these practices. They hope to change the current policies of real estate companies by making these policies too costly.

Budget Shelves Library Needs

by Janice Benoit Fodero
Community Relations, New Haven Public Library

About 65 New Haven residents, friends and staff members of the Public Library turned out for the public hearing on the city budget before the Board of Aldermen on Thursday evening to protest the drastic cuts proposed by the Board of Finance for the library budget fiscal year 1975-76.

Mrs. Leanor L. Wexler, President of the New Haven Library Board of Directors went on record as reluctantly supporting the budget. The City Charter stipulates that budgets, rejected by the Aldermanic Board and returned to the Board fo Finance for review, may either remain fixed or be decreased; no accommodation is made for budgetry increases in a rejected budget.

While acknowledging that all city departments have an obligation to practice fiscal austerity, Mrs. Wexler questioned the priorities of the proposed city budget; the library has received 21.4% reduction in personnel while other municipal agencies have received meager 3 or 4% reductions. Mrs. Wexler cited this inequtiy as an example of abuse of power by the Board of Finance. According to the City Charter, Section 151, the library Board Of Directors " shall direct expenditures of all money placed at their disposal by the city from whatever source derived."

Varied Programs

City Librarian Meredith Bloss gave a concise overview of New Haven Libraries and outlined the probable effects of the proposed budget on the library next year. The city has a main library open 69 hours a week and seven branches open 40-50 hours a week. The library provides three main services to all people of New Haven: books to borrow for home use; information/reference services; and programs and activities related to books and information.

While all three services are being used more frequently and the rate of increase is rising, meaning more work for an already short staff, the Board of Finance has imposed further cuts in personnel. If a reduction in force becomes a reality, the skeleton staff will be obliged to incur increasingly heavy work load and work that needs to be done will be postponed. The collection of materials will suffer and public service will get shortchanged.

Besides Mrs. Wexler and Mrs. Bloss, a total of 15 people spoke on behalf of the library. Republican mayorality candidate John Esposito went on record against the library budget. Mrs. Henry Pierce, President of the New Haven Friends of the Library, presented the Board of Alderman with petitions, which were placed in all city libraries for one week, signed by 3,954 New Haven taxpayers/residents who opposed the library budget cuts. Signatures were also collected from 1,046 non-residents who used the New Haven Public Library during that period.

Further Public Support

Alderman Edward A. Zelinsky entered a letter of protest from the residents of the John Magree House, 84 Norton Pkwy. into the record. Ms. Joan Bezrudczyk, president of the New Haven Public Library Staff Association, described the library outlook as "bleak." Mr. Joseph Lepsky, a New Haven resident and library user, made such an eloquent plea on behalf of the library that he received a standing ovation by all library supporters.

Write a letter protesting the library cuts and mail it at once to Mayor Guida or better still call your Aldermanic representative and demand that the budget of the library not be slashed. For further information call 562-0151, ext. 1304. **SAVE YOUR LIBRARY!**

Community Calendar

Mon. May 19 — **Workers' Movement & Political Repression in Puerto Rico.** A forum presented by the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee with Pedro Grant-a union leader in Puerto Rico, Ronald O'Brien-president of Conn. State Federation of Teachers, and entertainment by the Gloria y Manolo singers and N.H. Childrens' Theatre. 8PM at Center Church, 311 Temple St.

Mon. May 19 — **The New Correctional Center: Who, What, When, Where and Why?** The fifth program in a series on the criminal justice system in New Haven sponsored by Citizens for Better Correctional Institutions. Mr. Dennis Guay, Deputy Warden of the New Haven Community Correctional Center will be featured. 8PM at the First United Methodist Church, 425 College St. For information call 562-8035.

Thurs. May 22 — **Spring Clown Workshop.** A fresh look at role-playing techniques for developing a positive self image. Fee $1 at the Teacher Center, 425 College St. 7:30-9:30PM.

July 28-Aug. 14 — **The Integrated Day—Teacher Center Summer Workshop.** A program connected with Fairfield University's Master of Arts program which explores teaching and learning styles. Registration: $330 tuition for six credits; $100 tuition for no credits; $10 registration fee. For more information call the Teacher Center, 776-5987.

Big Brothers of New Haven need men (over 18) to volunteer as Big Brothers. You can make the difference in a boy's life. Write Big Brothers c/o Richard Armstead, 1 Pine St., New Haven 06513

The Learning Exchange Office is a clearing house to match interests of people eager to teach, learn or share special abilities and skills. It is absolutely free. Call 248-0477 from 5-7PM Mon.-Thurs. and Sat. from 10-12noon.

Fredie Fixer Marches Again

Nick Heyer

The 14th annual Freddie Fixer parade drew a crowd of over 30,000 people in its march down Dixwell Av. on Sunday. The parade originated in 1962 as a symbol of neighborhood pride. Above is a float with the parade's slogan: I Am Somebody!

Pedro Grant & Growing Puerto Rican Labor Militancy

by the New Haven Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee

Pedro Grant, a leader in the Puerto Rican labor movement for over 20 years began organizing as a dock-worker. Committed to the idea of organizing a strong and unified Puerto Rican labor movement, he has worked with over 30 unions and is often called upon to be legal and organizational counsel for inter-union negotiations.

Currently he is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Boilermaker's Union in Puerto Rico, which he helped found eleven years ago, and the Coordinator of the United Workers Movement(MOU). He is also a leader in the Puerto Rican Socialist Party.

The United Workers Movement

The MOU was formed in 1972 out of a labor committee which included Pedro Grant and other labor leaders who sought a vehicle for trade union unity. Today it has become a federation of over 40 unions and 100 locals, representing 20% of all organized labor on the island.

The MOU is open to all organized workers regardless of their political affiliation. As a current MOU document states," what unites workers is their common interests and the consciousness that the unity of all within a single organization will give them more power to confront the employer."

The MOU is instrumental in organizing against the high cost of living, against the application of the Taft-Hartley Law in Puerto Rico, and in favor of unionization and the right to strike of public employees(39% of the Puerto Rican labor force).

Today in Puerto Rico there is an all-out attack on the growing organization and strength of the workers' movement. The governor of Puerto Rico has mobilized the National Guard as a strike-breaking force twice in the last three years.

Arrests of labor leaders resulting in long legal trials are common. Other tactics used with increasingly regularity against the labor movement include the mobilization of tactical police and hired strike-breakers, and injunctions under the Taft-Hartley Law.

In recent months, the attack has taken a different form. Editorials in **El Mundo**, the daily with the largest circulation in Puerto Rico, have warned workers to "protect their interests" from pro-independence and socialist forces in the unions. MOU leaders assert that the Commonwealth Government is using the issue of communism to divert the workers from struggles and divide the labor movement.

U.S. Colonialism

The "red scare': and other attacks on the workers' movement come at a time when the Puerto Rican economy—85% controlled by U.S. corporate investment—is in crisis. The same conditions which affect workers in the United States affect the workers in Puerto Rico, only on a more magnified scale.

Unemployment has officially jumped from 12% to 22% as a result of massive layoffs, while unoffcially the Governor of Puerto Rico has put it at 35%.Prices of basic commodities, always nearly 25% higher than in the U.S., are reaching new inflationary heights.

Attempts are being made by the Commonwealth Government not only to freeze wages , which are now approximately one-third of the average U.S. wage, but also to encourage more U.S. industry on the island by offering to subsidize 25% of the payrolls of the new "mainland" corporations with money which comes directly out of workers' taxes!

The low Puerto Rican wage and the relatively unorganized labor pool(only 19% of the Puerto Rican labor force is unionized)have always been incentives for U.S. industry. Profits are four times higher in Puerto Rico compared to the same industries in the States. Today, the labor movement, in strikes and unionization drives is militantly saying "NO" to these conditions.

National Tour

The response of the Commonwealth Government backed by the United Sates, has been direct repression and a campaign to divert the labor movement from confronting the corporations by proclaiming "communist infiltration" to be the real problem. But we must be prepared to understand the real issues and give our support to the Puerto Rican workers.

At the invitation of the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee, Pedro Grant will be speaking in New Haven on Monday, May 19 at 8 pm. at the Center Church Parish House, 311 Temple St. The theme of the program will be "The Workers' Movement and Political Repression in Puerto Rico." Also appearing will be Ronald O'Brien, President of the Conn. State Federation of Teachers; the New Haven Street and Children's Theatre; and the Gloria y Manolo protest singers. For more information call Tony Rostain, 776-2371 or write to the New Haven Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee, 919 Elm St., New Haven. 06511.

school notes

Innovations Stifled

by Ruth Hein

Time and again groups of people, dissatisfied with the results of schooling--either in educational or in human terms--work to make changes and improvements.

Innovations are instituted only after considerable struggle. Usually the initial results are beneficial, and the innovation is widely publicized; sometimes it becomes the new traditional wisdom.

What also happens, however, is that the original idea becomes tamed and adapted so that it serves the old, failed interests even as it seems on the surface to appeal to the reformers.

Bilingual Programs

A case in point is the many bilingual programs established over the last few years in many school systems. It is understood that their intention is to safeguard non-English speaking children (especially Spanish-speaking, these days) against academic failure caused by their having to work in a language which they comprehend insufficiently or not at all.

Communities readily accept (or even recommend) spending educational funds on the hiring of Spanish-speaking teachers, adding counselors, and arranging for special classes containing bilingual teachers as well as children fluent in either language.

More often than not, however, the cultural differences of the Spanish-speaking children are not taken into account. The additional expenditure serves to teach nice white middle-class college-bound kids to speak Spanish.

They Don't Profit

The Spanish-speaking children end up serving as a resource for the favored group and do not themselves profit from the program.

Still another innovation masquerades under the name of individualized instruction. Parents have expressed concern for a long time about what happens in the classroom both to the slow learner and to the unusually bright child; will the former be discouraged by the median speed, and will the latter be bored and alienated?

The bureaucratic answer of individualized instruction seems to respond to this worry. Each child will progress at his or her own pace, insuring that the program is administered to each in a manner they can optimally handle.

Effect on Teaching

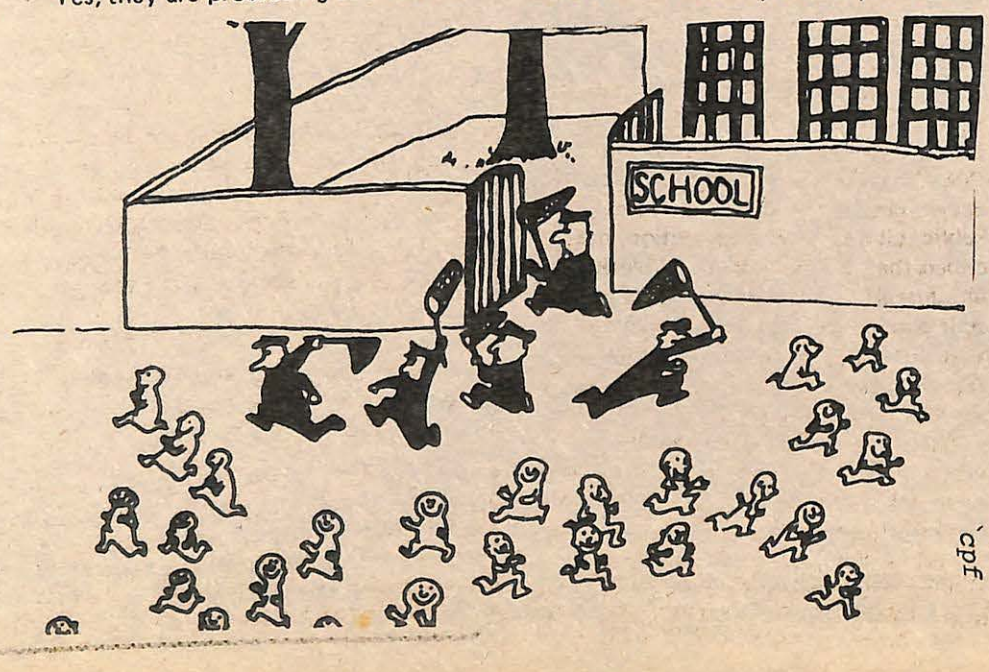
Aside from the rather obvious fact that even this tailoring to individual needs does not change the program (the same textbooks and curriculum guides still being used for all the children), it also turns out to have an insidious effect on teaching as such. For "individualized programs" mean nothing more or less than a roomful of students, all busy at their own desks with their own workbooks.

Yes, they are proceeding at their own pace. But they are being deprived of interaction with other students, of the teacher's personality in common lessons, and in general of the cooperation that is a hallmark of good schooling.

Of course such a proceedure does make it easier all around. Again, the reformers are assured that their goals of individuation are being met. At the same time the educational administrators find that one teacher can more easily supervise a larger number of children, thus cutting costs, nor does it require as high a caliber of teaching as does working with a group.

Lip Service Not Satisfactory

One educational reformer has recently stated that there is no program, no matter how novel or revolutionary, that cannot easily be co-opted into status quo education. This is not to say, however, that we should abandon efforts to introduce innovations and progressive plans. It only means that we must not be satisfied with lip service. Once such programs are indeed introduced, we must keep on watching and questioning, to make certain that they are not perverted.



on the job
Exclusive Story of Happy Hawker

by Renée Poirier and "The Hawker"

For about five years now I have been working weekends and summers as a hawker at parades, sports events, and fairs.

Each summer I live like a gypsy for nine weeks as our concession follows the fairs across the country. My boss rents space in advance and we drive by night from one fairground to another.

Work begins early in the morning, when we set up our stands. This involves putting out the tables, making trees of vinyl dolls on sticks, laying out toys and blowing up hundreds of helium balloons.

How to Sell

The number of stands we have depends on the size of the fair. The same is true for the number of sellers hired. Selling is done mostly by yelling out to the people walking by, but sometimes I have to use a sales pitch. If the stands are in a good location, then selling is pretty easy. But we have to pay more for a good spot.

When the fair closes for the night we have to take down the stand and put all the goods into our trailer. At the end of a stint, we pack up everything and move on. Sometimes we have to drive hundreds of miles to the next spot, sleeping in the car, only to get right to work as soon as we arrive.

Working parades is a lot easier than fairs. Usually we're only gone for a day, and we take the van and some shopping carts. Five to ten hawkers work a parade but we've gone as high as twenty for a really big one.

The Process

Some hawkers wheel the carts along the parade route, while others, like myself, carry badge boards, poles with dolls on them, and lots of balloons.

I get a percentage of what I sell at a parade. This means that I have to hustle. Not every parade is profitable. Sometimes there are too many peddlers for the size of the event. You have to know how to pick them.

Hawking is pretty hard work, because you have to walk the parade route a number of times, and they can run about five miles one way. Sometimes the police give hawkers a hard time, pushing them off the street and making them move on, and then there are the people who try to rip you off.

A Good Job

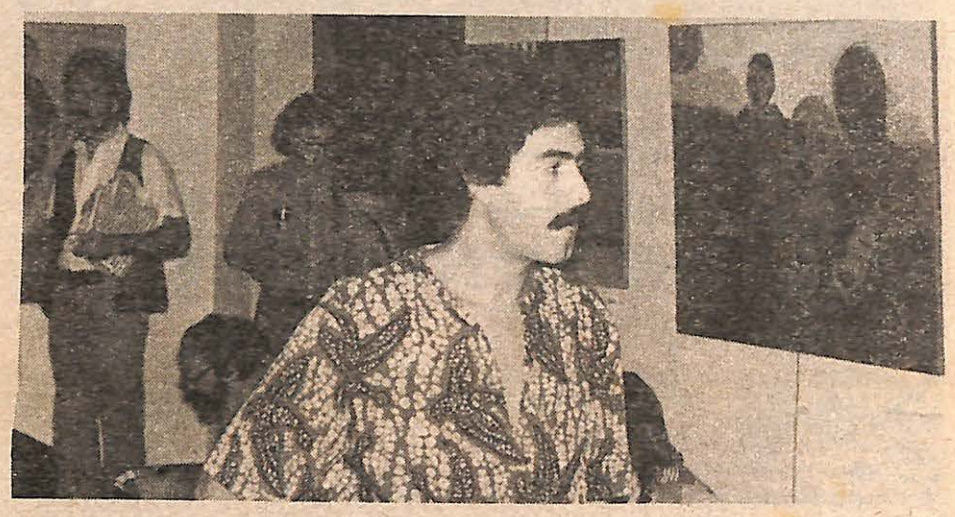
Hawking is a good job for me, though, because I can make good money and I don't have to work eight hours a day, everyday. I like traveling in the summer. I've been to almost every state, and I've met a lot of people. This year, for example, we worked the Superbowl in New Orleans.

It's exciting meeting new people, being successful with a sales pitch , and getting to see the country. I also like working outside and getting exercise.

Many people can't make it hawking, because the work is too hard. You have to be willing to be on your feet all day and be willing to strain your vocal chords. If you are willing to make the effort, it's worth it. I've cleared over a hundred dollars for one parade.

Peddling isn't what I plan to do for the rest of my life, but the money I make is helping me to save for college. When I go on to school, I'll quit.

Local Artist at York Sq. Cine



In our last issue , we carried an On The Job about Fethi Meghelli, a New Haven painter. On May 9th, Fethi had a well attended opening of his art work at the York Square Cinema.

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Budget Cuts Hurt Poor

continued from page 1

That afternoon the Superintendent of Schools had proposed "absorbing" the cuts in the education request in two possible ways:
(1) Cut out about 100 teaching positions and cut back the lunch program by 20%.
(2) Cut out the lunch program completely.

Labor Against Cuts

John Wilhelm, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 217 of the Hotel, Restaurant Employees International Union which represents New Haven's public school cafeteria workers, spoke against these cuts. He showed that if the city chose alternative (1), a savings of about $600,000 for the Board of Education in the lunch program would only end up saving the city about $180,000.

A high percentage of the lunch program is paid for by the Federal Government. In addition, the city would be responsible (dollar for dollar) for the unemployment compensation for laid-off cafeteria workers.

Alternative (2), completely cutting out the lunch program, would be worse because the city would have to pay the Federal Government back much of the costs of kitchen equipment. Over the past three years, the city has made a huge investment to expand the hot lunch program to all schools.

The High Cost of Not Educating

Several teachers, the President of the School Administrators Association, the President of the New Haven Federation of Teachers, the President of the PTA, and many concerned parents demanded that the Board of Aldermen reject the budget.

Frank Carrano, of the New Haven Federation of Teachers, pointed out the folly in cutting back on the one area where we have some control--the education of our children. Claire DiMartino, of the PTA Council exposed the budget cutting practices of the New Haven Board of Education.

After the budget was cut last year, the Education Department asked for less money for heating, fuel, electricity, bussing, private school tuition, and food, even though they knew prices were going up. In fact, the Board of Education is currently complaining about a $2 million dollar deficit because they overspent in those areas.

Cuts are Discriminatory

Barry Herman, President of the School Administrator's Association described the disastrous effects of the proposed cuts: larger class size, fewer books, and a decreased community program. He explained how slower learners, students with emotional problems, and others could suffer in large classes. He also explained how the cuts in the community program could eliminate the only source of evening recreation in some neighborhoods.

Craig O'Connel, a teacher at Martin Luther King School, pointed out the inherent class and racial bias in such cuts in the education budget--especially when the majority of public school students are black and Spanish-speaking and the overwhelming majority is working class!